



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MARTYN LOTT et al.	Examiner: Lee, Sin J.
Serial No.: 09/587,813	Group Art Unit: 1752
Filed: June 6, 2000	Docket No. 58575-278026
For: ARTICLE HAVING IMAGABLE COATINGS	

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I CERTIFY THAT, ON May 5, 2003, THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED
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Jolene M. Alger
Jolene M. Alger

DECLARATION OF KEVIN BARRY RAY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

I, Kevin Barry Ray, declare and state as follows:

1. I earned a Ph.D. degree in chemistry from University of Kent in 1993.
2. I have been employed by Kodak Polychrome Graphics LLC, the assignee of rights for U.S. Patent Application 09/587,813, since October 1993. My position is Research Associate, Research & Development.
3. My job responsibilities during the past ten years have included the development and manufacture of lithographic printing plates. During the course of my career, I have been associated with approximately 25 patents and applications for patent related to this field.
4. I am a co-inventor of the subject matter disclosed in Patent Cooperation Treaty application PCT/GB 98/03191, which has been published by the World Intellectual Property Organization as WO 99/21715. The published application shall be referred to herein as "the McCullough reference."
5. I am familiar with the content of the McCullough reference, and with the experiments as described in the reference. The McCullough reference relates to heat-treatment of lithographic printing plate precursors (or "lithographic printing form precursors") having a coating that includes a phenolic resin composition.

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6. I am familiar with the experiment as described in Example 1 on page 74-75 of the McCullough reference. Example 1 of the McCullough reference describes an experiment in which a given coating solution was coated onto a prepared aluminum substrate, dried, and then aged to yield a printing plate precursor. The experiment is fully described in the reference. Briefly, the aging conditions were as follows: Individual plate samples were covered with interleaving, which was a polythene-coated paper (6 g/m² coating weight), and then wrapped in an unbleached, unglazed polythene-coated paper (20 g/m² coating weight). The plate samples were then placed in a hotbox oven with fan, and held at 50° C for 0, 2, 3, 5, or 12 days.

7. In the experiment described in Example 1 of the McCullough reference, the polythene-coated wrapping paper was not taped or sealed around the plate samples. The combination of the polythene-coated interleaving paper and the polythene-coated wrapping paper used in Example 1 is not sufficient to inhibit moisture removal from the interleaved and wrapped plate samples during heat treatment. The interleaving and wrapping were used in the experiment primarily for physical protection and identification of the plate samples, not for the inhibition of moisture removal.

8. The environment in the hotbox oven, held at 50° C in Example 1 of the McCullough reference, would have a relative humidity of less than 10%, and generally less than 5%, under the specified conditions. This humidity level is not sufficient to inhibit moisture removal from the interleaved and wrapped plate samples during heat treatment.

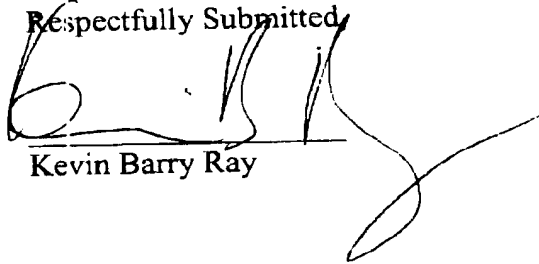
9. When a stack of plate samples is heat-treated in the manner described in Example 1, a significant edge effect is experienced. An edge effect is indicated where an edge region of a plate sample suffers from unacceptable performance, while the center region of the plate sample performs satisfactorily. As a result, in order to obtain printing plate precursors that provide consistent performance over the entire surface area, it is necessary to trim away the edges of precursors treated in a stack using the heat-treatment method described in the McCullough reference.

10. I also declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further

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that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity any patent issued from U.S. Patent Application 09/587,813.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Barry Ray

Dated: April __, 2003

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May 5, 2003.